

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE CRISIS
USSR/CUBA

Information as of 0600
20 November 1962

15 FEB 1963
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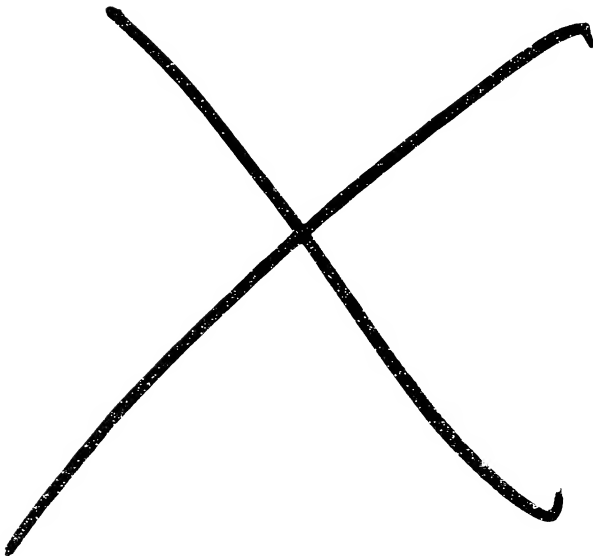
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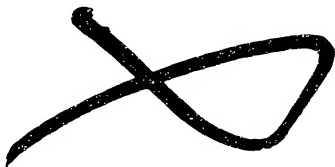
CUBAN INTERNAL SITUATION



Cuban radio programs are charging that the US arrest of several Cubans for sabotage activities in the United States is illegal and trumped up and initiates a "wave of

persecution" by "repressive agencies" against both Cubans and peace-loving Americans. They also feature statements that Cuban Roberto Santiesteban was detained illegally in view of his "diplomatic immunity" and was "brutally beaten."

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BLOC REACTION

Moscow has not yet commented on Castro's letter to U Thant on the removal of the IL-28 bombers. However, Castro's declaration was probably taken at Soviet behest and reflects Moscow's attempt to make US "fulfillment" of pledges on Cuba the main issue in further discussions.

Castro's letter stated that the US has made the presence of the IL-28 bombers on Cuban soil "the crux of the problem." Kuznetsov will probably take the line that the USSR, in agreeing to remove the IL-28s, is meeting all US demands and is entitled to a simultaneous US guarantee not to invade Cuba. Moscow probably hopes that a promise to remove the IL-28s will effectively cancel out the issue of inspection and verification.

Castro's declaration that he will accede to a withdrawal of the IL-28s will probably evoke even more direct propaganda attacks by the Chinese Communists on the USSR. An 18 November People's Daily editorial attacked those "lackeys of US imperialism" who have sought to force the Cuban people "to accept terms which impair their rights and sovereignty."